

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 00396 170412Z
ACTION CU-06

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UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 0396

SECSTATE FOR CU/ARTS

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL
SUBJECT: CHARLIE BYRD TRIO

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 0371

1. THE FIRST OF THREE CONCERTS SCHEDULED IN MALAYSIA HELD SUNDAY NIGHT IN DEWAN TUNKU CHANCELLOR (GREAT HALL) OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA WAS VINTAGE BYRD AND AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS. APPEARING FULLY RECOVERED FROM A BOUT OF FLU WHICH DELAYED HIS ARRIVAL AND FORCED CANCELLATION OF THE CONCERT SCHEDULED FOR KUCHING, CHARLIE BYRD WAS IN FINE FORM AND DELIGHTED A NEAR-SELLOUT AUDIENCE OF 1800 PERSONS WITH HIS VIRTUOSITY ON THE GUITAR IN BOTH MODERN AND CLASSICAL JAZZ. THE VARIED PROGRAM INCLUDED A SET OF GEORGE GERSHWIN AND DUKE ELLINGTON NUMBERS, VILLA-BLOBOS AND CARLOS-JOBIM, THREE CONTEMPORARY VOCALS BY BASS JOE BYRD, CONCLUDING WITH THE ROUSING "OLD HYMN" COMPOSED BY CHARLIE BYRD HIMSELF. ONE ENCORE WAS A TRADITIONAL
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MALAYSIAN FOLK SONG. THE AUDIENCE RESPONSE WAS ENTHUSIASTIC AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE TRIO, PICKING UP WHERE IT LEFT OFF TWO YEARS AGO, HAS LOST NONE OF ITS MAGIC TOUCH. ADDITIONAL CONCERTS ARE SCHEDULED IN IPOH AND PENANG.

2. FOR BANGKOK: ALTHOUGH CHARLIE BYRD IS STILL SUFFERING

WITH AFTER-EFFECTS OF HIS LONG BOUT WITH FLU, PLUS AN
EXHAUSTING TRIP WITHOUT LAYOVERS FROM WASHINGTON,
POST NEED HAVE NO CONCERN OVER QUALITY OF HIS
PERFORMANCE. LIKE ANY GREAT PROFESSIONAL, CHARLIE
RALLIES MAGNIFICENTLY, IS A TOTAL PLEASURE TO WORK WITH,
AND MAKES FEW DEMANDS EXCEPT FOR HIGH
QUALITY ACOUSTICS IN CONCERT HALL. AS NOTED RELTEL, HE
WILL DEFINITELY BE EXPECTING RFC CHECK FOR MALAYSIAN
PERFORMANCES.
MILLER

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NNN

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